

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A cover—(3)—for closing a top opening (17) of defined inside dimensions of a thermite reaction chamber (15) of a crucible—(2), the cover including for this purpose a bottom peripheral edge—(29) suitable for bearing against a top peripheral edge—(11) defining said top opening—(17), said cover being substantially continuous and said bottom edge—(29) having secured thereto a filter lining—(35) that is annular, substantially continuous, and suitable for constituting a substantially continuous contact medium between said bottom edge—(29) and said top edge—(11), the cover being ~~characterized in that it presents sufficient weight~~sufficiently heavy—(Pe) to be able solely under gravity to withstand any gas pressure—(Pg) that might develop inside said chamber—(15) during a thermite reaction.

2 (currently amended). A cover according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said filter lining—(35) is compressible.

3 (currently amended). A cover according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said filter lining—(35) is made of a fiber material selected from the group comprising felts of vitreous synthetic fibers.

4 (currently amended). A cover according to ~~any one of claims~~  
claim 1 to 3, said top edge ~~(11)~~ being substantially plane, ~~the~~  
~~cover being characterized in that and~~ said bottom edge ~~(29)~~ is  
being substantially plane.

5 (currently amended). A cover according to ~~any one of claims~~  
claim 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that it presents~~ comprising a  
continuous peripheral rim ~~(31)~~ bordering said bottom edge ~~(29)~~  
inside said filter lining ~~(35)~~ and projecting downwards relative  
thereto, said rim ~~(31)~~ presenting outside dimensions that are  
smaller than said inside dimensions so as to be suitable for  
engaging with clearance ~~(34)~~ in said opening ~~(17)~~.

6 (currently amended). A cover according to claim 5,  
~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter lining ~~(35)~~ ~~presents~~ has  
inside dimensions that are greater than said outside dimensions so  
as to leave annular clearance ~~(40)~~ between said rim ~~(31)~~ and the  
filter lining ~~(35)~~.

7 (currently amended). A cover according to claim ~~6~~8,  
~~characterized in that it presents~~ comprising localized centering  
means ~~(41)~~ for centering the filter lining ~~(35)~~ relative to said  
rim ~~(31)~~ so as to ensure that said annular clearance ~~(40)~~ exists.

8 (currently amended). A cover according to ~~claim 6 or claim 7~~  
~~as dependent on claim 4~~, ~~characterized~~ comprising a continuous  
peripheral rim bordering said bottom edge inside said filter lining  
and projecting downwards relative thereto, said rim presenting

outside dimensions that are smaller than said inside dimensions so as to be suitable for engaging with clearance in said opening;

in that the filter lining presents inside dimensions that are greater than said outside dimensions so as to leave annular clearance between said rim and the filter lining;

in that said bottom edge-(29) presents blind cavities-(45) that are circumferentially localized and circumferentially distributed, facing which the contact between said bottom edge-(29) on said filter lining-(35) is locally interrupted, and in that said cavities-(45) communicate with said annular clearance-(40), but are closed going away from said rim-(31) by the bottom edge-(29) of the cover-(3) making contact with the filter lining-(35).

9 (currently amended). A cover according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 8~~, characterized in that it is generally in the shape of a pot, defining internally a cavity-(52) set back upwards relative to said bottom edge-(29).

10 (currently amended). A cover according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 9~~, characterized in that it is generally in the form of a body of revolution.

11 (currently amended). A cover according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 10~~, characterized in that it is adapted for single use, said cover being made of a material ~~that is easily destroyed after use, in particular of comprising~~ sand agglomerated by a binder, said material being easily destroyed after use.